

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01122 290903Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 ACDA-12 IO-13 /088 W
-----009305 290906Z /10

O 290700Z MAY 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6249
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1122

E.S.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PEPR, XF, IZ, CU, UR
SUBJ: SOVIET-IRAQI RELATIONS

REF BAGHDAD 1113 (NOTAL)

1. BAGHDAD IS BUZZING WITH RUMORS OF PURGES AND EXECUTIONS
OF IRAQI COMMUNISTS FROM MILITARY AND CIVILIAN MINISTRIES.
WE HAVE HEARD FIGURES RANGING FROM 14 TO 40 EXECUTED BY
HANGING. LOCAL SOURCE WHO CLAIMS ACCESS TO IRAQI INTELLIGENCE
DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY EXECUTIONS HAVE OCCURRED
BUT STATES THAT A "HIT LIST" HAS BEEN PREPARED AND THAT
ARMY OFFICERS ARE ON IT. OTHER SOURCES EMPHATIC THAT
EXECUTIONS HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED.

2. BAATH PARTY DAILY AL-THAWRA BEGAN SERIES MAY 28
UNDER TITLE "POLITICAL ACTION IN ARMED FORCES." FRONT
PAGE EDITORIAL FOCUSES ON ROLE OF PUPULAR AND PROGRESSIVE
NATIONAL FRONT (PPNF), WHICH INCLUDES COMMUNISTS.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01122 290903Z

EDITORIALIST, WHO WRITES IN STYLE VERY CLOSE TO WRITINGS
OF SADDAM HUSSEIN, STATES THAT REGIME DID NOT ESTABLISH
PPNF TO KEEP ITSELF IN POWER. PPNF CAME INTO BEING
AFTER BAATH PARTY HAD CONSOLIDATED ITS RULE AS A CHANNEL
FOR MOBILIZING IRAQIS TO ACHIEVE LONGRANGE GOALS.
BAATH INTENDS PPNF TO BE A PERMANENT FEATURE OF IRAQI
POLITICS BUT WILL NOT TOLERATE ITS USE BY OTHER PARTIES

TO ACHIEVE POWER. INDEED, PART OF THE PPNF AGREEMENT IS THAT POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN ARMED FORCES BE RESTRICTED TO BAATH PARTY. GENERAL BUT LENGTHY FIRST INSTALLMENT SEEMS INTENDED TO LAY THEORETICAL BASIS FOR UNFOLDING OFFICIAL POLICY ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. COMMENT: STRAINS BETWEEN CURRENT IRAQI REGIME AND SIVLET UNION HAVE ERUPTED BEFORE WITHOUT DOING PERMANENT DAMAGE TO "STRATEGIC ALLIANCE." NONETHELESS, TITLE OF THIS SERIES HAS OMINOUS TONE SINCE IT SUGGESTS VULNERABLE POINT FOR THIS SECURITY-CONSCIOUS REGIME. YEARS OF MILITARY DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS MUST HAVE CREATED NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOVIETS TO INFILTRATE ARMED FORCES. AGAINST BACKGROUND OF DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER POLICIES TOWARD MIDDLE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA, AND RECENT COUP IN AFGHANISTAN, ACTIVITIES OF MOSCOW-LINING IRAQI COMMUNISTS GIVE REGIME GOOD REASONS TO RECONSIDER ITS OVERALL RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIET UNION AND LOCAL COMMUNISTS.

4. EVEN IF IRAQ WERE TO TAKE FIRM STEPS TO LIMIT THE POTENTIAL SOVIET THREAT TO ITS INTERNAL SECURITY, WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT TO SEE ABRUPT CHANGE IN IRAQI FOREIGN POLICY. REGIME MAY EVEN FEEL OBLIGED TO REASSERT POSITIONS CONGENIAL TO THE SOVIETS ON ISSUES NOT QCENTRAL TO IRAQI SECURITY OR INTERESTS. IN SUCH WAYS, REGIME
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 01122 290903Z

MAY HOPE TO LIMIT DAMAGE TO BILATERAL RELATIONS
STEMMING FROM MEASURES IT MAY TAKE AGAINST SOVIET
INTERESTS IN IRAQ.
PECK

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, EXECUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA01122
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-0274
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780510/aaaaaidb.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7c224693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BAGHDAD 1113
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2507594
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET-IRAQI RELATIONS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, PINS, XF, IZ, CU, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c224693-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014